

important bill. That is exactly what they did. At times when negotiations got heated, both sides hung in there, and in the end we came up with a compromise. Neither side liked everything that was in it, but it was a true compromise.

Less than 12 hours after we reached agreement, the faction within the House leadership led by Congressman DELAY and Congressman ARMEY decided to renege on our bipartisan conference. We were baffled by this sudden decision. We spent many late hours giving and taking, compromising, and negotiating. We came to an honorable, mutually satisfactory agreement.

As I said, no one was 100-percent happy with it. For example, I was extremely displeased that, at the insistence of Republicans, an important regulation protecting workers from workplace injuries—such as carpal-tunnel syndrome—was delayed yet again; despite the fact that last year's conference report contained explicit language, it would be delayed further.

Each year, over 600,000 American workers suffer disabling, work-related, musculoskeletal disorders that cost employers \$15 billion to \$20 billion a year in compensation. It may cost our economy as much as \$60 billion total a year.

I was especially disappointed in the delay because this ergonomic provision, as a nonpartisan proposal, initiated under Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole in the Bush administration 9 years ago.

While I was displeased with certain aspects of the bill, I was satisfied that the bill contained important provisions to improve the education of our kids, provide health care for working women, and safeguards for Social Security and Medicare. Those provisions are far too important to be destroyed by last-minute partisan politics.

There is a 21-percent overall increase in education funding in this bill and 35-percent more funding for class size reduction. This means 12,000 new teachers across America will be making a difference for 648,000 children.

There is school modernization funding that will generate approximately \$9 billion for school repairs; \$250 million to increase accountability to turn around failing schools; a 40-percent increase in IDEA grants, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act grants, to States; the largest increase ever in Pell grants, so that college is affordable to working families and their kids; 70,000 more kids will get Head Start under this bill; an additional \$817 million for child care to serve 220,000 more children; another almost \$.5 billion for afterschool care for 850,000 kids.

In the health care area, there will be 1.4 million more patient visits to community health centers under this bill with an additional \$150 million; an additional \$18 million for breast and cervical cancer screening; an additional \$1.7 billion for NIH funding, the largest ever; home heating, an additional \$300

million for the Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program.

In the end, each side won some battles and each side lost, but we ended up with a fair and honorable agreement that was in the best interests of our Nation. That is what bipartisan compromise is all about.

Some are suggesting we just adopt a full year's continuing resolution. Not only would that be an abdication of our responsibility, but it would be exactly the wrong start to the next 2 years of a possibly evenly divided Senate and closely divided House. It would toss out one of the best examples of bipartisan cooperation that we have had this year, the bipartisan cooperation to enact the Labor-Health-Education appropriations bill.

Even worse, Mr. President, a full year's continuing resolution would be a step backwards for the education of our kids and making health care available to all Americans. It would wipe out all the gains I have just mentioned that are included in the bill. We would be kissing goodbye all these important advances in class size reduction, Head Start, breast and cervical cancer treatment, and many others.

Among other things, a full year's continuing resolution would cut NIH research by 47 percent, denying funding to 4,500 new research project grants this year. This chart indicates that.

If we pass a 1-year continuing resolution, here is what will happen: Under the current bill on which we had bipartisan agreement, we will be able to fund 9,500 new research projects at NIH. If we have a 1-year continuing resolution at last year's level, we will have only 5,000.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour has arrived for the party conferences to meet. The discussion on this issue will continue.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent to be recognized at 2:15 for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The unanimous consent divides time at that time, so I object.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent to be recognized at 2:15 to finish my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I have to object. We have divided the time at 2:15 on this issue.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:17 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. INHOFE].

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2415

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the

vote regarding the continuing resolution, the majority leader be recognized to offer a motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the cloture vote relative to the bankruptcy bill. I further ask that the motion to proceed on the motion to reconsider be agreed to and the Senate then proceed to 10 minutes equally divided between the majority leader and Senator WELLSTONE, and following that time the Senate proceed immediately to the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2415, the bankruptcy bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the joint resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 126) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001 and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be 15 minutes equally divided.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this is a continuing resolution to give us until the close of business Thursday to complete the activities of this Congress. That is a large order, but I think it can be done if all Members of the House and Senate will cooperate.

We have in conference the major bill, the Health and Human Services bill, which we were prepared to act upon, but there were four basic differences in the conference that we could not resolve with the White House before the election. We are working on that. I can report to the Senate that our majority leader has just given us information about the meeting that he and other leaders had with the President last evening. I can tell you from my perspective, based on the report of the majority leader, I believe it is possible to finish by Thursday night if there is a will in both the House and Senate to do so.

It is my judgment—I am sure we are going to hear from the distinguished Senator from West Virginia that he shares this opinion—that the work of this Congress should be finished by this Congress. We put a lot of time and effort into these bills that are still pending in conference. I do believe it is possible for us to finish if all Members will cooperate with us.

The President has consented to making some reductions in the amounts proposed in these bills before the election. We are working on that with the staff of the House now in the appropriations process. I believe we will be able to report back sometime before the close of business today if the progress has led us to the point where we could file, or ask the House to file, a conference report tonight so it could be taken up by the House tomorrow.